

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Urban League Black History Month Celebration TONIGHT

The Urban League of Greater Hartford will hold its annual Black History Month Celebration TONIGHT, February 20, at the Mark Twain House and Museum, 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford. The theme of the event will be "A Legacy Revealed: Beyond The Movement." There will be an Interactive Exhibit from 6 - 7 pm and a Legacy Showcase from 7 - 8:40 pm. Admission to both is free. To register online, please go to [ulghLegacyRevealed2020.eventbrite.com](http://ulghLegacyRevealed2020.eventbrite.com).

### KNOX Urban Greenhouse Party February 21

KNOX, Inc. will hold its annual "75° An Urban Greenhouse Party" on Friday, February 21 from 7 to 11 PM in the KNOX Greenhouse, 75 Laurel Street, Hartford. The event will include beer, wine and appetizers plus other surprises. Music will be provided by DJ Hakim Zarif. There will also be a silent auction with live plants. Tickets are \$45 (unless purchased before Feb. 1) or \$50 at the door. To purchase, go to: [www.knoxhartford.org](http://www.knoxhartford.org). Proceeds will benefit KNOX's efforts to improve the quality of life for Hartford residents through community gardens, neighborhood clean-ups, tree plantings and other environmental initiatives.

### Yard Goats Job Fair Set this Saturday,

The Hartford Yard Goats will be holding its annual job fair at Dunkin' Donuts Park, 1214 Main Street, Hartford, on Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. The Yard Goats are seeking applicants to fill a wide range of game day positions and looking for upbeat, fan-friendly individuals to help make the fourth season in Hartford another huge success. Dunkin' Donuts Park attracted over one-million fans over its first three seasons in Hartford. Last season, the Yard Goats drew a franchise record 414,946 fans, including 51 sell-outs, and led the entire Eastern League in total attendance for the second straight year. Personnel from both the Yard Goats and their food and beverage provider, Professional Sports Catering, will be on hand to speak with and receive applications from all job-seekers. Combined, the two organizations will staff an average of 300 positions each year that include: ushers, ticket takers, box office personnel, merchandising,

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## Bulkeley/Weaver Beats HPHS

Hartford Public High School's Qiarra Williams (center, white jersey) goes up for a shot Monday night in her team's game against Bulkeley/Weaver. Behind Williams are (left to right) Victoria Reyes, Oneila Salmon, Cassandra Garriga and Michelle Soto-Ortiz. Bulkeley/Weaver won the game 58-50. Rhonasha Stevenson was the high scorer for Bulkeley/Weaver with 35, followed by Rennarda Washington with 14. Janai Oliver led the Owls with 26 points, followed by Reyes with 10. (Hart photo)

## Hartford...Once Upon a Time



One of the most innovative acts of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration was the creation of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's Public Works of Art Project (PWAP). The PWAP commissioned artists across the country to create works focused on their localities. In 1935, the PWAP presented this mural and another similar work by West Hartford artist Walter Korder to the City of Hartford. The murals, which depict Hartford's early history, originally hung in Hartford City Hall, but were later moved across the street to the Donaghue Building at 525 Main Street. Since the City is now accepting bids for the renovation of the building, the murals' future is in doubt. As a consequence, the Hartford Preservation Alliance (HPA) has put the murals on its annual list of endangered properties. For the full list, please turn to page 5. The mural above depicts the construction of John Talcott's house in 1635. The house was built near where Capital Community College stands today. (Hartford News file photo)

## CITIZENSHIP 101

*When it comes to voting, centenarian Essie Womble sets the standard*

BY ANNE GOSHIDIGIAN

Born on November 20th, 1918 in Barnwell County, South Carolina, Essie Womble carries a lot of history. She remembers standing along the railroad tracks in April 1945 as the train bearing the body of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed by. Essie cast her very first ballot for FDR in 1940, and has voted in every election—national, state, and municipal—ever since. She doesn't cast an absentee ballot; she goes to the polls at nearby Kennelly School. "And we walk there", said her daughter. Essie ponders this and admits that someday she might get too old to make that trip, but "I'd rather go because I don't get out of the house that much", she adds with a twinkle in her eye. In the city of Hartford, where only a small fraction of eligible voters bother to make their way to the polls, Essie Womble's longstanding and unbroken dedication to exercising the right to vote is an outstanding and praiseworthy accomplishment. A tall and stately woman with a beaming smile and an engaging sense of humor, she's made her home in Hartford's southwest neighborhood with her daughter and son-in-law, Lauren and Ely Toppin and their two now out-of-the-nest sons for the past 32 years.

Mother and daughter enjoy a warm relationship and share some good-natured banter when it comes to recollecting the past. Lauren told me that when she and Eloy were expecting a new baby, and busy with their work lives, she asked her mother if she'd consider moving to Hartford from her home in Pennsylvania and becoming a welcome part of their household and a hands-on grandmother; Essie arrived in record time. But she recalls it thusly: "I gave up everything to come here; my house on nine and three-tenths acres, and the stream with turtles, fish, and snakes!"; we all laugh. "My mother was great. She took me on many trips when I was young", said Lauren. One of the most memorable was a visit to Washington D.C. where they visited the White House, the Washington Monument, and other iconic sites. "I remember her taking me to the New York World's Fair in 1964 when I was a little girl, and we saw President Lyndon Johnson there. Remember that, mom?" Replied Essie "I do well to remember what happened yesterday"; another laugh.

For most of her career life, Essie worked at a Veterans' Administration hospital as a Nurse's Aide and later as a Dietitian. She recalls saving the life of a young veteran who turned on the water in his hospital room, letting in run until it had flooded the floor, and then pulling down the ceiling light fixture and throwing the exposed wires on the water. "I don't want to go back to

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### Vargas Launches 2020 Campaign

Governor Ned Lamont (left) was among the many on hand Tuesday night to help 6th District State Representative Edwin Vargas (second from left) officially launch his re-election campaign at the Nutshell Cafe on White Street. At right are House Majority Leader Matt Ritter and Hartford businesswoman Millie Balgobin. The Nutshell closed its doors for good this week after several years in business. Look for a story in next week's edition. (Hart photo)



## Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

## We Will Miss Jim Lyon

A couple of weeks ago, James B. Lyons passed away. We had the pleasure of his friendship from the days of the University Club decades ago up to just recently when he anonymously stepped in – as was his wont – to save an event he helped create 30 years ago.

His 600 words plus obituary in the *Hartford Courant* listed his long involvement with museums, hospitals, colleges, etc...and his membership in over a dozen clubs and associations. He was a lawyer’s lawyer, involved in all manner of legal groups and commissions. A frequent writer, he seemed to be on top of many issues and wrote directly to the point.

However, for all the above, we remember him best for a call we received in July 2017. Jim had just read an article in the *Courant* about the potential demise of First Night Hartford. It was a tough year for organizers of the annual New Year’s Eve family celebration. Funds were slow in coming in, prospects dim and most of the First Night Board of Directors had faded away. So, your reporter had the dubious position as spokesman for the board (having been a member since the mid-1990s).

Well, somebody had to say it, so the *Courant* reported that the sun was about to set on First Night unless additional and significant financial backing was found.

Two days after the article appeared, the phone rang. It was Jim Lyon. He said, “What’s the problem?” Apprised of the bottom line, he asked for details and what would be needed to keep First Night going. It turned out that years before, Jim had been the lawyer, through his firm Murtha-Cullina, who had set up First Night 501.3C non-profit status.

So, we checked and double checked the cash that was available and added in the solid promises and a few “Hail Mary’s,” and told Jim that about \$30,000 might be available, but that at least \$50,000 was needed for base costs to all continued fundraising efforts.

Well, Jim came through. He asked, “Would \$25,000 do the trick?” We answered that if we reached the \$50,000 figure, other grants would kick in (and they did) based on solid evidence that the event would actually happen.

Jim said, “Come pick up the check,” but he had one condition:

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## What Hartford Needs to Engage Locals and Newcomers

OPINION BY JUSTO KARELL

Usually, where I first walk in or closer to the back of a coffee shop, there is a cork board on a wall with events hosted by locals for a (usually) fair price or free, discounts at local stores, business cards, and other small advertisements for individuals and their efforts. This is what Hartford needs if it wants to attract more people, and create a truly “local” experience. Not necessarily more cork boards with fliers and business cards – although that would good too -- but easy ways for locals to showcase small businesses and events by locals to the rest of Hartford, and for we other locals to engage with it.

Contemporary marketing trends are all about hyper-locality, honesty, and, to some extent, story-telling. I would much rather shop at an independent smoothie store rather than a Robek’s, partly because I know I’m putting money back into the community, but also because I will most likely see the owners putting away boxes of fruits from a place where I might shop. This is largely to the benefit of local governments, as they get tax money from every interaction a local business has with other local businesses. Putting local businesses and events on the map comes down to two things: the local or state government helping them finding an empty space to fill, and help with advertising their business.

There’s more than enough opportunity to make this happen. As someone on the border of a so-called, “Gen Z” and “Millennial”, I’m inherently tired of being

restricted to going to a bar, the grocery store, and events in Bushnell Park as ways to engage with the Hartford community. These events are simply ways to engage people with their own friends again, and not people with other people. There is tons of empty space in downtown Hartford. For the time being, Hartford should find a way to collectively rent those spaces out as co-working spaces to local, small businesses, where other locals can do business locally, and more things can simply, happen. Downtown is more than walkable, and Pop!: the ping-pong event space on Pratt Street is a prime example of this.

To me, this is part of showcasing the culture of a place; financially bolstering people who are trying to uplift Hartford, and allowing them to show their goods and services to others. This also means better advertising for small businesses and events that are already happening, and incentives for putting on these events that would make them cheaper and easier to attend. In other words, if Hartford wants people to stay and be engaged with people and businesses in the area, it needs to help put people and businesses in the area truly in the area, and give them office space and free advertising.

*Justo Karell, age 24, grew up in New York City and graduated from Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Hartford six months ago, and lives Downtown.*

# In My Opinion

## Citizenship 101

Continued from page 1

Vietnam!”, he cried. Essie, alone on the night-shift went to check, and then ran through that water to find an orderly, who came and turned off the electricity. The orderly received a medal and a cash award; Essie received no recognition for her quick thinking and risk to her own life. “Some things you just don’t forget”, she concluded with a shake of the head. She also lived for a time in New York City, where she recalled attending the famed Apollo Theater where Duke Ellington was appearing.

So what can one do after reaching such an advanced age? Well, Essie no longer plays basketball as she did in her youth. “I was the team’s center, and we played by girl’s

rules, but I could shoot from outside that circle (a three-pointer) and make the basket”, she said with a broad smile. She was also an avid ten-pin league bowler. In 1985, she won the Mrs. Senior Pennsylvania talent competition for reciting the James Weldon Johnson poem, “The Creation”. Asked if she remembers, she promptly recites the first stanza with dramatic flair. Several years ago, she was also asked to play a small role in an independent movie, “Fake”, being filmed in Essex, so she’s got an acting credit added to her accomplishments. In recent times, she’s become a champion WI bowler at the senior center; “I get lots of strikes.” She paints, solves crossword puzzles, and is a faithful watcher of Jeopardy and

Wheel of Fortune, where she takes pride in frequently solving the puzzle before the on-screen contestant. Essie has also recently taken piano lessons, and is a parishioner of St. James Episcopal Church in West Hartford.

She’ll be at the polls several times this year, starting with the Sixth District DTC election next month, the Presidential primary, Board of Education, and State and national elections in November, when she’ll celebrate her 102nd birthday. And Essie Womble is also looking forward to someday becoming a great-grandmother. Thank you, Essie, for a memorable hour with a wonderful and inspirational woman who’s still going strong!

## Political Roundup: Hartford Teens/HPD Chief Thody/2020 Legislative Session

BY DAVID SAMUELS

The conversation in the wake of the stabbing of a 17-year-old Weaver High student February 10 was focused mostly on security. No talk about how Black Hartford teens are traumatized by violence in their neighborhoods, which is rooted in neoliberal Democratic policies that fuel poverty, and a lack of economic opportunity. Following the 2018 Parkland mass shooting, city students talked about how they were left out of the national conversation on gun violence and policing in schools.

From Vox.com: “A 2014 fact sheet from the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights noted that, during the 2011-2012 school year, Black students were suspended and expelled from school at a rate more than three times greater than white students. When broken down by race and gender, the OCR notes that black girls are suspended at six times the rate of white girls and at twice the rate of white boys.

“Collectively, this disparity fuels what has been called the ‘school-to-prison-pipeline,’ a systemic bias that civil rights advo-

cates say pushes children and young adults of color out of the classroom and into the criminal justice system. For Black Parkland students like 17-year-old Kai Koerber, calls to increase police presence on campus and other security measures proposed after the February mass shooting have only made them more anxious. ‘It’s bad enough we have to return with clear backpacks,’ he said. ‘Should we also return with our hands up?’”

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February 4 the Hartford City Council recommended that interim Hartford Police Chief Jason Thody be confirmed for the permanent job. Thody’s history, which includes a 2010 drunken bar fight and allegations of racism, is the tip of the iceberg. Sustained civilian complaints against HPD officers increased 4 years in a row, between 2013-2016. Mayor Luke Bronin fired Ricardo Torres and members of the Hartford Civilian Police Review Board in 2017, in response to their request to expand the scope of the Sean Spell brutality investigation. A 2017 audit

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## THE HARTFORD NEWS

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# What Really Happened

**COMMENTARY/SATIRE BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN**

(From the Hartford Courant, February 15, 2020) Hartford officials were reminding the public Saturday that the metro area's largest warming center – in the old Vine Street school building – is open nightly from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m... Night-time temperatures in the mid 20s are expected over the next week, dropping to the mid teens on Thursday night...The vacant school building at 104 Vine St. was outfitted with cots rather than the traditional chairs so those with no other place to go can not only survive the cold but sleep comfortably...

*Note: The following imagined conversation is fictitious.*

(Phone rings)

“Office of the Mayor. How may I help you?”

*“Hey! It’s me, the Mayor. How are you?”*

“Hello, Mayor. I’m well, thank you. How’s everything going on the campaign trail?”

*“Fantastic! Inspirational! Major traction! He’s a runaway train! But that’s not why I called. I hear it’s pretty cold there, and the almost-new COO told me she’s been getting a lot of calls from people who’re upset about all the homeless people who are freezing, can’t get into the overnight warming center, and are sleeping outside. Downtown. Where visitors to Hartford can see them, you know? And the callers all want to know what the city’s going to do about it. So I need you to do something for me.”*

“Of course. And what would that be?”

*“Alert the media with a press release that says the Milner warming center is now open every night until March 31st.”*

“But, Mayor, I believe it’s been open for seven weeks already. And they’ve been writing about it a lot in that weekly newspaper, the one you told me to remove from the ground floor rack every Friday. They said there are problems there.”

*"Nobody reads that paper. Just announce the opening and write about how well it's going—how comfortable it is there, and make sure you mention that my administration made it happen. I've called our friend at the Courant and he's going to have one of his reporters write up the press release as an actual breaking news story. I told him the guy can add a little to make it look legit, but not too much. I don't want him interviewing the homeless people at Milner or on the street, asking how they feel about it. This is a success story—another addition to my list of accomplishments, like the Re-entry Center and the Youth Service Corps. You get the picture."*

"I understand, Mayor. I'll get right on that."

*"That's good. Thank you. Knowing that everything's fine with the homeless will set people's minds at ease and take some of the pressure off the almost-COO. (Aside: 'I'll be right with you, Pete!'). Gotta go now. Like Willie Nelson says, I'm on the road again."*

# Touring Historic Hartford with the Hartford Public High School Class of 1969

**BY WILLIAM HOSLEY, HISTORIC HARTFORD**

I've given plenty of bus tours over the years. I never had one I enjoyed more than with the Hartford High Class of 1969, 50th reunion, recently.

The three hour tour began and ended at The Tavern at Keney Park, where they had brunch. I like to focus on things most people overlook - not only to keep the cost down, but to underscore the point that we are sitting on a gold mine. Hartford's star attractions are amazing. But even "the supporting cast" includes nationally significant treasures.



## What did we do?

Entering along North Main - past Faith Congregational and other historic houses of worship, our first stop was Old North Cemetery with its iconic historical personalities, sculpture, and champion trees. It's my favorite platform for doing Hartford history. The life that flows through that place is inspiring and includes the founders of The Connecticut Historical Society, Wadsworth Atheneum, the American School for the Deaf, the Institute of Living, Watkinson Library, and Coltsville, plus Horace Bushnell, Frederick Law Olmsted, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Blacks, Whites, 3 Governors, 4 Congressman and 2 mayors, the 29th Regiment of (Civil War) Colored Troops, and Nathan Hale's fiancée.

Our next stop was the 1854 Isham-Terry House. It's not posh. It's not heavily restored. But those who see it are always moved by its authenticity, its deep connectivity to Hartford, and the two sisters who stood up to the wrecking ball of urban renewal and then - after an interstate highway (I-84) across the street isolated them followed by neighborhood race riots in the 1960s - they never gave up or gave in. They left the house to Connecticut Landmarks with an endowment. All the Isham children attended

Hartford High. It's why their older brother Dr. Oliver bought the house and established his medical practice there - so his younger sisters could walk to what was one of best high schools in the nation.

Next was the State Capitol - one of the most architecturally impressive in the country - rich in history going back almost 400 years all beautifully illustrated in stone and bronze. There is so much to see and learn there- about Connecticut's founding, our role in the American Revolution and Civil War, the Charter

Oak, and some of the colorful personalities whose statues are carved in marble. It's a veritable textbook of Connecticut history in three dimensions.



Finally, we did a quick loop around Coltsville National Historical Park. We got a close look outside at the Church of the Good Shepherd and Colt Memorial Parish House - both extraordinary Victorian age landmarks associated with Elizabeth Colt, without whom, there could be no Coltsville National Park, because she was the greatest philanthropist in Hartford's history - donating churches, parks, a poverty relief institution, an astonishing art and firearms collection, and her own mansion "Armsmead" - which has served as a residence for women over 60 since 1910.

Note that these are all "supporting cast" attractions that most readers will not yet have experienced. Our "stars" - like Wadsworth, Twain and Connecticut Historical - are the best in their class nationwide. Hartford is, or could be, an A-list cultural destination. Hartford could double tourism visitation easily and without spending more.


Why does tourism matter? Doubling or tripling visitation would make our cultural resources more sustainable


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# City of Hartford

## Registrars of Voters Office

# ATTENTION VOTERS:



February 27, 2020 is the deadline for registering and/or enrolling for voting in the Democratic Town Committee Primary for the 6th Assembly District to be held on March 3, 2020 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm for the following Voting districts:

- 15 Batchelder School - 757 New Britain Avenue**
- 16 Kennelly School – 180 White Street**
- 17 Southend Senior Wellness Center – 830 Maple Avenue**
- 18 Naylor School – 639 Franklin Avenue (Temporary location)**

Mail-in application of new voter must be received by the registrar of voters of the town of residence by this day, except that a mail-in application of new voter postmarked by this day or received by a voter agency or the Department of Motor Vehicles by this day may be received by the registrar of voters until 12 noon March 2, 2020.

However, enrollment application of unaffiliated voter must be received by this day by registrar of voters of town of residence, unless unaffiliated voter files application for enrollment in person with registrar of voters by 12 noon of March 2, 2020. (\$9-56)

During such time, electors of the City of Hartford are encouraged to visit the office of the Registrars of Voters located in room #2 on the Ground Floor of the Municipal Building, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT to request and complete a new voter registration application or to make necessary changes to their voter registration record.

All changes to voter registrations must be done in writing by completing a new voter registration application.



# Getting to Know Hartford’s Delegation to the State Legislature

The 2020 legislative session got going on February 5th. I know the last thing I need is another email about something I have no interest in. But that doesn't mean I don't want to know about what's going on at the State Capitol. I have some topics on my list that I'm interested in, but most likely, they aren't on your list. So how can you know what is going on? When there's an issue that is going to decided, I know I need to act fast, the timing of my input really matters, so how do I do that in the most effective, efficient way? I have read that the most effective way is to contact your State Senator or State Representative by phone. I asked Julio Concepcion, 4th District State Representative why that was so. He said that most of the people who call him are his constituents, the people he needs to hear from. If you use a contact form, they have to scroll down to see if you are a constituent. If you email them and don't include your home address, then won't know if they represent you. Personally, I prefer to write, which I feel is more efficient. Being thorough, I keep a copy of what was sent and I can do it 24-7. I know that I need to make it super easy to see that I live in their district. If you send an email, make it personal, say why you think or feel the way you do, or include a related experience.

### CT State Legislature is NOW in SESSION

CT State Legislature's Spring Session runs Feb 5<sup>th</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup>. A lot is going on at the state level – and I don't want to miss ANYTHING!

The best way is to CALL my State Representative or Senator on any issue at any time. Or I can email them. And, I can sign up for his or her newsletter.

I can go to CGA.CT.gov to find out who is my State Rep and Senator by typing in my address!

Holy Moly! How many bills are there? I can track the bills by going to CGA.CT.gov by signing up for a tracking account and then pick the issues that I care about.

CGA's event calendar is available for viewing at CGA.CT.gov. I can watch the proceedings at <http://ct-n.com/> live or watch it later.

When a bill or a public hearing is called, I can sign up to give public testimony or submit written testimony.

I've got this!

HARTFORD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION CONTACT INFORMATION					
John Fonfara	State Senator	Senate District 1	John.Fonfara@cga.ct.gov	860.240.0043	
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Doug McCrory	State Senator	Senate District 2	Douglas.McCrory@cga.ct.gov	860.240.8600	
Kelly Guilbert	Admin Asst	Senate District 2	Kelly.Guilbert@cga.ct.gov		
Matt Ritter	State Representative	House District 1	Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov	860.240.8585	
Kimberly Grove	Admin Asst	House District 1	Kimberly.Grove@cga.ct.gov		
Minnie Gonzalez	State Representative	House District 3	Minnie.Gonzalez@cga.ct.gov	860.240.8500	
Migdalia Ballester	Admin Asst	House District 3	Migdalia.BalesterAlicea@cga.ct.gov		
Tamara Morris	Admin Asst	House District 3	Tamara.Morris@cga.ct.gov		
Julio Concepcion	State Representative	House District 4	Julio.Concepcion@cga.ct.gov	860.240.8585	
Ciro Zelaya	Admin Asst	House District 4	Ciro.Zelaya@cga.ct.gov		
Brandon McGee Jr.	State Representative	House District 5	Brandon.McGee@cga.ct.gov	860.240.8585	
Alex Pachkovsky	Admin Asst	House District 5	Alex.Pachkovsky@cga.ct.gov		
Georgette Cicero	Admin Asst	House District 5	Georgette.Cicero@cga.ct.gov		
Ed Vargas	State Representative	House District 6	Edwin.Vargas@cga.ct.gov	860.240.8585	
Milagros Acosta	Admin Asst	House District 6	Milagros.Acosta@cga.ct.gov		
Joshua Hall	State Representative	House District 7	Joshua.Hall@cga.ct.gov	860.240.8585	
Laura Bartok	Admin Asst	House District 7	Laura.Bartok@cga.ct.gov		

## Community Renewal Team (CRT) is hosting a company-wide Job Fair.

**When? Tuesday, February 25 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Where? 555 Windsor Street in Hartford**

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Visit the Careers section of [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org) for complete details.

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### New Signage at Keney Park

New signs are up all around Keney Park! Keep an eye out—hundreds more are going up in 40 parks across Hartford. Landscape Designer Mary Dehais has been working hard with the City of Hartford, numerous park organizations, and Allied Signage to design, construct, and install new, comprehensive, and attractive signage. In collaboration with Keney Park Sustainability Project, and the City of Hartford Department of Public Works.

### Celebration of Dominican Culture at Park Library February 24

Hartford Public Library's Park Street Branch, 744 Park Street, will present a celebration of the culture and history of the Dominican Republic on Monday, February 24, from 5-7 pm. Learn about the history and culture of the Dominican Republic, and Dominicans who have migrated to the United States. Dominican Independence Day is on February 27th, come and celebrate with music, food, and fun.



# WRECKING BALL BOUND?

*Hartford Preservation Alliance Releases List of City’s Most Endangered Properties*

There are historic properties in every Hartford neighborhood. Some have been maintained through the years, others fell into disrepair and were then restored. But some, for one reason or another, are in imminent danger of being demolished forever. This week, the Hartford Preservation Alliance (HPA) released its annual list of Hartford’s most endangered properties. To find out how you can help save them, go to the HPA website at [www.hartfordpreservation.org](http://www.hartfordpreservation.org).

## 248-250 Sisson Avenue (West End)



Cited on previous endangered lists due, in large part, to having one of the last carriage barns in the city, hopes were raised for this property when it was purchased in 2018. But permits for renovations have expired and the vacancy and blight of the former restaurant also on this site warrants concern.

## 142 Jefferson Street (Frog Hollow)



Levi Felt began his business career at the age of 15 as an office boy for a Hartford start-up company - Travelers Insurance - and retired 48 years later as its Comptroller. This unique Queen Anne residence was singled out as one of the most notable properties when the historic district was formed in 1979. Sadly, it is one of many historic buildings in the area, some of which have not been listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places and are outside the protection of the Hartford Historic Preservation Ordinance, that have been purchased by a corporate owner and left vacant. A recent site visit has revealed that sections of the ornate chimneys - features that contribute to its architectural value - have been removed.

## 169 Bartholomew Avenue (Parkville)



When Swedish-born inventor and engineer Bengt M. W. Hanson partnered with Clarence E. Whitney to

begin manufacturing machine tools that Hanson had patented, they located their factory in an area of Hartford with easy access to transportation, abundant housing stock, and community amenities including a school, park and local shops. The Parkville Neighborhood Revitalization Zone believes that the rehabilitation of this long-neglected property is a necessary first

step for the cleanup and development of the adjacent abandoned industrial site. Parkville today retains its historic factory village infrastructure making it a prime target for transit-oriented and historic preservation development.

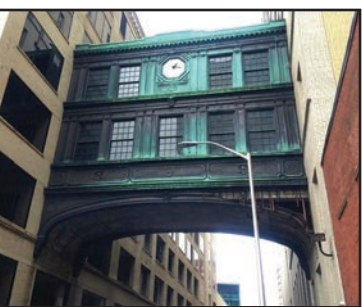
## 175 Washington Street (Frog Hollow)



The Washington Diner is one of only three known diners left in Hartford. Surviving diners can draw an eclectic crowd of patrons

and fill a niche between fast food and upper-end restaurants. The protection of the city’s preservation ordinance has spared the loss of the Comet Diner on Farmington Avenue, but this diner could easily be lost to demolition by neglect.

## G. Fox Pedestrian Bridge (Downtown)



The copper-clad pedestrian bridge

was built to connect the G. Fox and Company department store on Main Street to its warehouse building on Talcott Street, later a parking garage, now abandoned. A panel on the west side of the bridge fell off in 2017 and was, regrettably, cut up for scrap by workers unaware of the historic nature of the structure. Funding from the State Historic Preservation Office will allow HPA to provide training to Hartford city departments on recognizing historic structures and sites, and the resources available for their preservation. The anticipated rehabilitation of One Talcott Street will hopefully also include the restoration of this unique structure.

Continued on page 8

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News Briefs

Continued from page 1

housekeeping, grounds crew, concessions, kitchen personnel, and catering.

Free Screening of 12 Years A Slave Sunday

The West Indian Social Club of Hartford, 3340 Main Street, Hartford, will present a free showing of 12 Years A Slave this Sunday, February 23, at 5:00 pm in honor of Black History Month. The film, which won the Oscar for Best Film of 2013, is based on the slave memoir of Solomon Northup, a New York State-born free African-American man who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. by two conmen in 1841 and sold into slavery. Northrup worked on a Louisiana plantation for 12 years. Dinner will be served.

Know Thy Neighbor Frog Hollow Meets February 24

Know Thy Neighbor Frog Hollow will meet Monday, February 24, at 6:00pm at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Avenue. Know Thy Neighbor brings together neighborhood residents, police officers, and fire fighters from Frog Hollow and vicinity to talk about community concerns and work together to take action. For more information, contact: ktnfroghollow@gmail.com or 860-201-6510. Refreshments will be

available at 5:45pm. Park in the church lot off of Hungerford Street and enter the building from the parking lot through the red door on the right.

Celebration of Dominican Culture at Park Library

Hartford Public Library's Park Street Branch, 744 Park Street, will present a celebration of the culture and history of the Dominican Republic on Monday, February 24, from 5-7 pm. Learn about the history and culture of the Dominican Republic, and Dominicans who have migrated to the United States. Dominican Independence Day is on February 27th, come and celebrate with music, food, and fun.

CRT Job Fair February 25

The Community Renewal Team (CRT) will host a job fair on Tuesday, February 25, from 11 am - 6 pm at the CRT Main Office, 555 Windsor Street, Hartford. On-the-spot interviews will be available to qualified applicants. Please bring your resume. For more information, please call 860-560-5665.

City Treasurer to Speak at WECA Meeting Feb. 25

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 25, from 6-8 pm at Hartford

Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford. City Treasurer Adam Cloud will discuss the city's financial situation and respond to questions from the audience. In addition, there will be a presentation by West Hartford Children's Museum, Janice Castle will discuss the Love your Block Grant Program and Sandy Fry will discuss the Farmington Avenue upgrade. The meeting is free and open to the public.

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“Health Cafe” at Library February 27

The Connecticut Convergence Institute and the Hartford Region YWCA will present their next “Health Cafe” on Thursday, February 27, from 6 - 8 pm in the Kitchen Cafe at Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford. Glenn Konopaske, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at UCONN Health Center will discuss “Beyond The Winter Blues: Seasonal Affective Disorder.” There will be a free dinner and give-aways for all attendees. The event is free but space is limited. To RSVP, please go to <https://health.uconn.edu/connecticut-convergence-institute>.

HEZBA Luncheon February 28

The Hartford Enterprise Zone Business Association (HEZBA) will hold its annual Luncheon and Awards Presentation on Friday, February 28, from 12 - 2 pm at

Uptown Vibz, 3155 Main Street, Hartford. To reserve your ticket, call 860-897-5171. This event is sponsored by HEZBA and the Inquiring News.

Black Business Gala February 29

Hartford Small Business Night Out (HSBNO) will host its 7th Annual Black Business Gala on Saturday, February 29, from 7 pm to 12 midnight at Marquee Events, 960 Main Street, Downtown Hartford. Honorees include Alisha Bowens Mercado, Bilal Apolabi, DeVaughn Ward, Gerald Grate, Kim Hawkins, Norman Oates and Chefs Stella & Mazie. For tickets and more information, go to: <http://www.small-businessnightout.com/events.html>

Become a Certified Fishing Instructor

Do you love to fish? Would you like to teach others the “Ancient and Enjoyable Art of Angling?” On Saturday, February 23, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will offer a class to qualify community members as certified Connecticut Aquatic Resource Education (CARE) instructors from 10 am - 3 pm at Keney Park Pond House, 323 Edgewood Street, Hartford. For more information, contact Tom Bourret at 860-663-1656; Justin Wiggins at 860-663-1656; or Doris Johnson at 860-424-3053.

Saint Casimir Fair March 1 at Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 53 Capitol Avenue, Downtown Hartford, will host its annual Saint Casimir Fair on Sunday, March 1, from 10 am -2 pm in the church hall. There will be Lithuanian handicrafts and food for sale, as well as amber jewelry and

other items. A Lithuanian-style lunch will also be available for sale as well as pastries. Admission is free, the public is welcome. Saint Casimir was a Lithuanian prince known for his devotion to God and his generosity to the sick and the poor. He died in 1484 at the young age of 25. He was buried in the Cathedral of Vilnius, Lithuania and officially made a saint in 1602. The fair is organized by the Lithuanian-American Girls and Boys Scouts. Proceeds will go to the scouts and the Holy Trinity Parish.

Democratic National Delegate Workshop March 5

The Connecticut Democratic Party will hold a Democratic National Committee (DNC) Delegate Workshop on Thursday, March 5, from 5:30 PM – 7 pm at Connecticut Democratic Party Headquarters, 30 Arbor Street, Suite 106A, Hartford. The purpose of the meeting is to walk interested Democrats through the process of becoming a 2020 DNC delegate to this summer's Democratic Convention in Milwaukee. Please RSVP to <https://ctdems.org/events>.

Auditions Open for Footlights Performing Arts School

Footlights Performing Arts and Education at the Downtown Hartford YMCA, 90 State House Square, is now holding auditions for upcoming classes. Footlights offers instruction in dance, theater, singing, African drumming, martial arts, and visual arts and stage prop design along with tutoring, field trips, college credits and more. Auditions are open to children ages 10-17. To schedule your audition, please call 860-539-3984 or email to [footlightsinfo@ghymca.org](mailto:footlightsinfo@ghymca.org)



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Farewell Jim Lyon

Continued from page 2

he wanted his contribution to remain completely anonymous. Call after call soon came in from various news outlets, digging for hints to the identity of the generous donor who saved First Night. Sorry, friends in the media, I gave my word and I'm keeping it.

In the years following, Jim continued his support, always with the assurance that his contribution would

go to something special. This year, a world-class presentation, “The Life, Times and Music of Nat Reeves” was underwritten by Jim, and, if reports are correct, he was pleased with the great success of the event, which kicked off First Night 2020.

So, like many others, we will miss Jim Lyon, not just for what he did, but for the quiet and kind way that he did it.

In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

found that the HPD was “non-compliant” with the state racial profiling law. Bronin and the Democratic controlled city council continue to obstruct police accountability. Green Party presidential candidate Howie Hawkins is the only candidate who supports Black community control of the police.

\*\*\*

Gov. Ned Lamont's State of the State address February 5 included coded language about reducing the state employee workforce through privatization (“doing more with less”). The public sector is the largest employer of Black people and women. Lamont

talked about “building trust” between the police and Black neighborhoods. There have been three fatal police shootings in Connecticut already in 2020.

Lamont told white liberals' favorite story about letters Martin Luther King wrote while working in Simsbury as a teenager, talking about how different things were in Connecticut compared to the segregated south. Liberals' selective memory omit Dr. King's 1967 speech at the first and only National Conference on New Politics convention in Chicago, where he blasted the Democrats and the machine politics of Mayor Richard J. Daley. Connecticut, a blue state, has the highest income inequality rate in the U.S.

Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport annually rank among the cities with the highest poverty rates.

\*\*\*

Howie Hawkin's ecosocialist Green New Deal includes a Works Progress Administration type of living wage jobs program, which would target Black neighborhoods with the highest poverty and unemployment rates. Howie's education plan includes free schooling, from kindergarten through college. Howie's health care plan includes a National Health Service, which would take Medicare for All even further. More info on the Howie 2020 website: [howiehawkins.us/](http://howiehawkins.us/)



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The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge  
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Francesca Knerr, Esq.,  
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
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The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge  
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loss of rights to recover on such  
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Carmen Y. Zayas, Assistant  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
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c/o Eric S Parker, Romano  
Parker & Associates Law  
Offices  
41 New Britain Avenue  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
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The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge  
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The fiduciary is:  
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
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Carmen Y. Zayas  
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Sheldon Walcott,  
190 Tower Ave.  
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# El Informativo Latino

## Proyecto De Ley De Connecticut Prohíbe La Disciplina Por Facturas De Almuerzo Sin Pagar

La propuesta también permitiría a cualquier entidad pública o privada pagar dicha deuda. Varios distritos escolares de Connecticut han visto aumentar las deudas de almuerzos escolares.

Los legisladores de Connecticut están considerando legislación para abordar la deuda del almuerzo escolar. El Comité de Niños de la Asamblea General celebrará una audiencia pública el martes sobre un proyecto de ley que prohíbe la acción disciplinaria contra los niños de escuelas públicas que tienen facturas de almuerzo escolar no pagadas.

La propuesta también permitiría a cualquier entidad pública o privada pagar dicha deuda. Varios distritos escolares de Connecticut han visto aumentar las deudas de almuerzos escolares. El tema también ha generado controversias en todo el país.

Un distrito escolar de Pensilvania se disculpó el año pasado por advertir a los padres que estaban atrasados en sus facturas de almuerzo que sus hijos podrían terminar en hogares de guarda.

"El proyecto de ley para prohibir la vergüenza del almuerzo nació de la protesta pública, porque los niños de todo el país han sido públicamente avergonzados o expulsados "por tener deudas de almuerzos anteriores", dijo la representante estatal Linehan, un demócrata, es el presidente de la Comisión de Niños.

"Este proyecto de ley requeriría que los distritos escolares continúen sirviendo un almuerzo infantil, independientemente del estado de pago, y que ese almuerzo no sea específico solo para los niños que tienen

deudas, para no avergonzar públicamente o anunciar la deuda escolar del niño", dijo Linehand . "Los distritos tampoco podrán fijar notas a un niño, escribir en su mano o hacer una exhibición pública de la deuda. Además, el proyecto de ley específicamente permite a los distritos aceptar donaciones filantrópicas o privadas para cubrir las deudas de los

estudiantes. También requiere que los intentos de cobrar la deuda por escrito incluyen información sobre cómo solicitar un almuerzo gratis o reducido, y la ubicación de las despensas de alimentos en el área. Ningún niño debe pasar hambre y ningún niño debe ser avergonzado públicamente por el incumplimiento de pago de los padres una deuda.



Emilio Solla Tributango se presentó en concierto de Jazz en Librería pública de Hartford en el centro de la ciudad, el día 16 de febrero.



### La Diferente Radio

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**563 Franklin Avenue**  
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## Historic Tour of Hartford

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and less dependent on charity. In the case of Isham-Terry, the Capitol, and Old North Cemetery - more tourism could save them or at least make them more accessible.

I loved that this Class of 1969 group was seriously diverse. Black, white, folks of Polish, Irish, and Italian descent - all with something in common. People who turn out for school reunions are often accomplished - feel good

about themselves and what they've done; are social and like reconnecting with past times and places, even if they've moved away. Theirs was the last era before the great out-migration to the suburbs changed so much. We are still recovering.

Our history is a rich and inspiring platform for building civic pride and attachment. What a joy to spend an afternoon with a group who remember this city well and care about it. Love it - as we must.

## HPA Endangered Properties

### 282 Laurel Street (Asylum Hill)



The condition of this property, located within sight of a major artery, has not improved since we identified it on our 2017 Endangered List. Vacant and abandoned buildings located along major commuter routes - whether highways or city streets - act as billboards that falsely promote that the city is dangerous and in decline. This site is one of many distressed properties along the Farmington Avenue corridor that collectively are negatively impacting real estate values and community identity.

### WPA Murals

In 1935, the City of Hartford received two murals painted under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's Public Works of Art Project. West Hartford artist Walter O. R. Korder, under the guidance and direction of a special city



committee, created these paintings that depict the arrival in 1634 of the Massachusetts Bay Colony bark Blessing at Dutch Point and the construction of John Talcott's house in 1635. The murals were originally installed on the second floor of the Municipal Building (City Hall) and were subsequently moved to the Donaghue Building at 521 Main Street. Since the city is now entertaining bids from developers for the renovation of this building, time is of the essence to find a new and appropriate home for them, hopefully in a location that will allow public access and viewing. Steps also need to be taken to ensure that the city employees assigned to move them recognize their value, both monetary and historic. The "discovery" of these cultural artifacts presents an opportunity to open a discussion about the rich history of Hartford outside of the Puritan settler narrative.

### Introduction of St. Paul of Tarsus (101)

It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

I knew a man in Christ above 14 years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

How he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Of such a one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

2 Corinthians 12, v. 1-10

Universal Life Children's Church of Jesus Christ

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